



MARTIN O'MALLEY
GOVERNOR

STATE HOUSE
100 STATE CIRCLE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1925
(410) 974-3901
(TOLL FREE) 1-800-811-8336

TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

November 14, 2011

Dear Governor,

Last month, we recognized National Bullying Prevention Month. We are now writing to ask that you sign the "Stop Bullying, Speak Up" Pledge so that we can keep the message alive: Bullying is wrong, and we need to speak up to prevent it.

Every day in our country, an average of 160,000 students miss school because they are afraid they will be bullied if they go to class. Every seven minutes, someone is bullied on a school playground, and 85% of the time, no one steps in to help. This is a serious, wide-spread issue that has already resulted in the tragic suicides of too many children throughout our country.

Bullying is not inevitable. Studies find that when a bystander intervenes appropriately, the act of bullying is eliminated more than half the time and within 10 seconds.

In partnership with thousands of Maryland moms, dads, students and educators, Katie and I took the "Stop Bullying, Speak Up" pledge. As Governor and First Lady, we ask that you too join this national effort.

The pledge is easy to take and it is a simple promise. It is a promise that you will do everything you can to speak up against bullying and stop the abuse within your state. Please join us and the almost 100,000 Americans who have taken the pledge by visiting <http://www.facebook.com/stopbullyingspeakup>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Martin O'Malley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Martin" being more prominent than the last name "O'Malley".

Governor

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Katie O'Malley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Katie" being more prominent than the last name "O'Malley".

First Lady